United Nations A/RES/73/126

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.43 and A/73/L.43/Add.1)*]

73/126. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 1999, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012, 68/125 of 18 December 2013, 69/139 of 15 December 2014, 70/20 of 3 December 2015, 71/252 of 23 December 2016 and 72/137 of 11 December 2017, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.
[2] Resolution 53/243 B.

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Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling its resolutions 70/262 of 27 April 2016 on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and 72/276 of 26 April 2018 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

Recalling also its resolutions 72/241 of 20 December 2017 on a world against violence and violent extremism, 72/284 of 26 June 2018 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, and 70/254 of 12 February 2016 on the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and noting the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism under resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[4]

Welcoming the observance of 10 December as Human Rights Day,[5] 9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime[6] and 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence,[7] as proclaimed by the United Nations,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for the prevention of conflicts, the peaceful settlement of disputes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, mediation, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, social inclusion, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to a culture of peace,

Recognizing also that efforts towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace need to take into account the promotion of a culture of peace and vice versa,

Recognizing further the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace as well as interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 72/136 of 11 December 2017 and 72/137,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and

[3] Resolution 55/2.
[4] Resolution 60/1.
[5] Resolution 423 (V).
[6] Resolution 69/323.
[7] Resolution 61/271.
[8] A/73/391.

increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations, in particular through various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

Taking note of the meeting of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 September 2018 at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of international organizations, on the theme "Building bridges: using soft power to promote a culture of peace",

Taking note also of the eighth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 and 20 November 2018 under the theme "#Commit2Dialogue: partnerships for prevention and sustaining peace",

Welcoming the successful holding on 5 September 2018 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, at which Member States emphasized a wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, and taking note with appreciation of the Chair's summary of the meeting on the theme "The culture of peace: a credible pathway to sustaining peace",

Welcoming also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, known as the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, convened by the President of the Assembly on 24 September 2018, and the adoption of its political declaration,[9]

Recognizing the role of women and youth, as well as the contribution of children and older persons in advancing a culture of peace, and in particular the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

Noting the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, as well as for the promotion of peace and security,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing a culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade

[9] Resolution 73/1.

for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the promotion of a culture of peace in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[10]

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Underlines* that early childhood development contributes to the development of more peaceful societies through advancing equality, tolerance, human development and promoting human rights, and calls for investment in early childhood education, including through effective policies and practices, towards promoting a culture of peace;

8. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, that could discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to increase its activities that focus on peace education and global citizenship education in order to enhance an understanding among young people of values such as peace, tolerance, openness, inclusion and mutual respect, which are essential in developing a culture of peace;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities, as outlined in its resolution 72/276, and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

11. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace and non-violence, including lessons in mutual understanding, respect, tolerance, active and global citizenship and human rights;

[10] Resolution 70/1.

12. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

13. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

14. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

15. *Invites* Member States, all entities of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with its resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001, and of the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October, in accordance with its resolution 61/271 of 15 June 2007;

16. *Reiterates* its request to the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September, and requests the Secretariat to support its effective organization with required logistics support within their respective mandates and existing resources;

17. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to give special attention to the appropriate and befitting observance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action, which falls on 13 September 2019, by holding the high-level forum on that date, which will be an opportunity for renewing the commitments to strengthen further the global movement for the culture of peace;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation, including through public information activities by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for the observance of the twentieth anniversary;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

51st plenary meeting
12 December 2018

United Nations A/RES/73/127

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.48 and A/73/L.48/Add.1)*]

73/127. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles, and especially the commitment to settle disputes through peaceful means and the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Acknowledging that the approach of multilateralism and diplomacy could reinforce the advancement of the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, sustainable development, peace and security and human rights, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, while observing respective mandates and the Charter,

Recognizing the United Nations as the most representative international organization and the utmost expression of multilateralism, which is the main instrument to address multifaceted and complex global challenges through collective action,

Recognizing also the urgent need to promote and strengthen multilateralism and that the United Nations plays a central role in this regard,

Recognizing further the role of international, regional and subregional organizations in the promotion and preservation of multilateralism and in the facilitation of diplomacy, and noting in this regard the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and its political declaration of 26 September 2018,[1]

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

[1] A/73/407, annex.

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1. *Declares* 24 April as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, with effect from the seventy-third session of the General Assembly;

2. *Underlines* that the International Day constitutes a means to promote the values of the United Nations and to reaffirm the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, to reaffirm the importance and relevance of multilateralism and international law and to advance the common goal of lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures and arrangements for the United Nations to commemorate and promote the International Day;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to recommend ways and means by which the United Nations system and the Secretariat could assist Member States, upon request, in organizing activities to commemorate and promote the International Day;

6. *Invites* all Member States and observers of the United Nations, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner and to disseminate the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities;

7. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to organize, on 24 April 2019, a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day, with the participation of Member States and observers, as well as of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General;

8. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote, as appropriate, the International Day;

9. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

51st plenary meeting
12 December 2018

United Nations A/RES/73/128

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.52 and A/73/L.52/Add.1)*]

73/128. Enlightenment and religious tolerance

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[3]

Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, and to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 67/104 of 17 December 2012, 72/136 of 11 December 2017 and 72/176 and 72/177 of 19 December 2017, including on freedom of religion or belief and on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and other related resolutions,

Bearing in mind that States have the primary responsibility to promote human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 36/55.

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Acknowledging the diversity of the world and the fact that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, recognizing the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out, since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 70/19 and 70/20 of 3 December 2015, by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace,

Underlining the importance of promoting education, peace, human rights, tolerance and friendship,

Recognizing, in this regard, the key role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in contributing to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture,

Recognizing also the importance of inclusion, mutual respect, respect for human rights, tolerance and understanding, in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

Seriously concerned by intolerance and the existence of discrimination on account of religion or belief, and by the ongoing violence in the world, in which terrorist groups have targeted people for their religion or beliefs,

Considering the value of education, including among others global citizenship education, and religious tolerance in promoting mutual understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, in order to help to prevent actions incompatible with the Charter and relevant United Nations instruments,

Welcoming, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Convinced that promoting religious tolerance will contribute to the fulfilment of the goals of universal peace, social justice, friendship, the protection of human rights and the elimination of ignorance and practices of violence,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

1. *Welcomes* the invaluable contribution of the United Nations and the relevant entities of the United Nations system to strengthening dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding;

2. *Also welcomes* the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in contributing towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world

[4] Resolution 70/1.

[5] A/73/391.

by promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to maintain a common stance in supporting the application of the principles and purposes of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;[3]

4. *Urges* Member States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

(a) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(b) To support various types of intercultural engagement and peacebuilding at the national and international levels;

(c) To support research activities;

5. *Expresses deep concern* about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, including those carried out in connection with incitement to national, racial or religious hatred;

6. *Invites* Member States to implement appropriate communications strategies, such as wide-scale awareness-raising campaigns in national and international media, as well as through the Internet, and to disseminate educational information on tolerance, non-violence and freedom of religion or belief;

7. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and beliefs.

51st plenary meeting
12 December 2018

United Nations A/RES/73/129

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.55 and A/73/L.55/Add.1)*]

73/129. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 72/136 of 11 December 2017 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 67/104 of 17 December 2012, it proclaimed the period 2013–2022 the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures and invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in that context, to be the lead agency in the United Nations system,

Encouraging, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recalling its resolution 69/312 of 6 July 2015 on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in which it reaffirmed its support for the Alliance and reiterated the valuable role of the Alliance in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs,

Recalling also its resolution 72/241 of 20 December 2017 on a world against violence and violent extremism and its resolution 72/284 of 26 June 2018 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Recalling further its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, by which it declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Noting also the growing importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in the context of the global phenomenon of migration, which increases interaction among persons and communities from various traditions, cultures and religions,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Noting the Unite for Heritage campaign launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in March 2015, which aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world, and the Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage, held in Abu Dhabi on 2 and 3 December 2016, and the declaration adopted at the Conference,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

Welcoming also the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation, and for strengthening people-to-people bonds, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated, such as the establishment of the Hamad bin Khalifa Civilization Center in Copenhagen in 2014, the African Initiative on Education for Peace and Development through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, launched in Cotonou, Benin, in May 2015, the thirteenth Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, held in Qatar, the sixth Congress of Leaders of World and

[2] Resolution 70/1.

Traditional Religions, held in Astana in October 2018, the third World Nomad Games, held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, and organized under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in September 2018, the establishment of the International Institute for Tolerance and the Muslim Council of Elders in the United Arab Emirates, in 2017, and the launch of the World Tolerance Summit, in Abu Dhabi, all of which contribute to promoting social cohesion, peace and development,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Noting also the adoption of the Yerevan Declaration of the seventeenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of la Francophonie, on the theme "Living together", held in Yerevan on 11 and 12 October 2018,

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Noting the declaration of the Forum on the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015, and further efforts that build on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence[3] and the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief,

Welcoming the Declaration on Promoting Cultural Pluralism and Peace through Interfaith and Inter-ethnic Dialogue, endorsed by the 137th Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 14 to 18 October 2017,

Referring to the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biennially by Azerbaijan in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue,[4]

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Underlining the importance of education, including education on culture, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and human rights, in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples' understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

[3] A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix.

[4] A/72/488, para. 40.

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge prejudices, improve mutual understanding and foster cooperation,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue among religions, groups and individuals, in particular religious leaders, can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting the Appeal for Peace, signed by religious leaders during the World Day of Prayer for Peace, held in Assisi, Italy, on 20 September 2016,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;[5]

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of internationally agreed development goals;

4. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

5. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to consider carrying out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022), adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[6] which provides a framework for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, while placing emphasis on the involvement of women and youth in such dialogue;

7. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media, social media or any other means;

8. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating

[5] A/73/391.

[6] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Executive Board decision 194 EX/10.

to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

9. *Welcomes* the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and invites relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

10. *Also welcomes* the joint statement issued by Spain and Turkey as co-sponsors of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations after the successful conclusion of the eighth global Forum of the Alliance, on the theme "#Commit2Dialogue: partnerships for prevention and sustaining peace", held in New York on 19 and 20 November 2018, and invites relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

11. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these can be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, and protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals, and are non-discriminatory and applied in a manner that does not obstruct the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

13. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue ePortal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, as well as the Peace and Dialogue ePortal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue ePortal and to the Peace and Dialogue ePortal;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

15. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based and cultural organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

16. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

17. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

18. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
12 December 2018

United Nations A/RES/73/130

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 10

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.54 and A/73/L.54/Add.1)*]

73/130. Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 3187 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3391 (XXX) of 19 November 1975, 31/40 of 30 November 1976, 32/18 of 11 November 1977, 33/50 of 14 December 1978, 34/64 of 29 November 1979, 35/127 and 35/128 of 11 December 1980, 36/64 of 27 November 1981, 38/34 of 25 November 1983, 40/19 of 21 November 1985, 42/7 of 22 October 1987, 44/18 of 6 November 1989, 46/10 of 22 October 1991, 48/15 of 2 November 1993, 50/56 of 11 December 1995, 52/24 of 25 November 1997, 54/190 of 17 December 1999, 56/97 of 14 December 2001, 58/17 of 3 December 2003, 61/52 of 4 December 2006, 64/78 of 7 December 2009, 67/80 of 12 December 2012 and 70/76 of 9 December 2015,

Recalling also the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,[1] the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects,[2] the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict[3] and the two Protocols thereto,[4] the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,[5] the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,[6] the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2421, No. 43718.
[3] Ibid., vol. 249, No. 3511.
[4] Ibid., vols. 249 and 2253, No. 3511.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1037, No. 15511.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2562, No. 45694.

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Intangible Cultural Heritage[7] and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[8]

Appreciating the decisions of the fourth meeting of States parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, held in May 2017, which encouraged all States parties to ensure the exchange of experiences and the promotion of good practices with regard to countering trafficking in cultural property and with regard to its return or restitution to the countries of origin, underlined the obligation of all States parties to urgently implement the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) of 12 February 2015, in particular paragraphs 15 to 17, and 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015, in particular paragraph 15, and invited States parties to provide information regularly to the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of Council resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), and 2347 (2017) of 24 March 2017,

Noting the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property on 2 December 2004,[9] as it might apply to cultural property,

Recalling the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 October 2003 of the Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage,[10]

Noting the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 November 2015 of the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form,[11] and the Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society,[12]

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[13] includes, inter alia, a pledge to foster intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility, an acknowledgement of the natural and cultural diversity of the world and a recognition that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development, as well as targets related to the protection and return or restitution of cultural property,

Recalling also its resolution 69/196 of 18 December 2014, by which it adopted the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, and acknowledging with appreciation the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to such trafficking,

Recalling further the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and

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[7] Ibid., vol. 2368, No. 42671.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2440, No. 43977.

[9] Resolution 59/38, annex.

[10] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September–17 October 2003*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 33, annex.

[11] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, annex V.

[12] Ibid., annex IV.

[13] Resolution 70/1.

International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted on 19 April 2015,[14] and noting the commitment expressed by Member States therein to strengthen and implement comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in cultural property for the purpose of providing the widest possible international cooperation to address such crime, to review and strengthen domestic legislation to counter trafficking in cultural property, where appropriate, in accordance with their commitments under international instruments, and to continue to gather and share information and statistical data on trafficking in cultural property, in particular on trafficking that involves organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of the World Customs Organization in July 2016 on the role of customs in preventing illicit trafficking in cultural objects,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General submitted in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[15]

Aware of the importance attached by the countries of origin to the return or restitution of cultural property that is of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value to them, so that they may constitute collections representative of their cultural heritage,

Recognizing that illicit trafficking in cultural property affects all regions of the world and that every country might at the same time be a source, transit and final destination area,

Commending Member States, cultural and educational institutions, museums and civil society for their efforts to combat illicit trade and trafficking in cultural property, and welcoming all initiatives, whether by States, institutions or private persons, for the voluntary return of cultural property that has been illicitly appropriated,

Recalling the Human Rights Council resolution on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage of 2018,[16] which notes with deep concern that the organized looting, smuggling and theft of and illicit trafficking in cultural property could undermine the full enjoyment of cultural rights, are contrary to international law and may, in some instances, generate funds for the financing of terrorism, and encourages the strengthening of dialogue and cooperation between relevant international organizations and States affected by the organized looting, smuggling and theft of and illicit trafficking in cultural property,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing illicit trafficking in cultural property and the ensuing damage to the cultural heritage of nations,

Expressing deep concern also that cultural property, including religious sites and ritual objects, is increasingly targeted by terrorist attacks and outlawed militias, often resulting in distortion, complete destruction, as well as theft and illicit trafficking, and condemning such attacks,

Expressing deep concern further about the loss, destruction, theft, pillage, illicit removal or misappropriation and illegal export of cultural property from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives and other sites and any acts of vandalism or damage directed against cultural property, in particular in areas of armed conflict, including territories that are occupied, whether such armed conflicts are international or non-international,

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[14] Resolution 70/174, annex.

[15] A/73/390.

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/73/53), chap. IV, sect. A, resolution 37/17.

Reaffirming, in this regard, the necessity of strengthened international cooperation in preventing and combating all aspects of trafficking in cultural property, which is particularly at risk in the Middle East, and noting that such cultural property is often transferred either through illicit markets worldwide or through licit markets such as auctions, including through the Internet,

Recalling its resolution 69/281 of 28 May 2015, entitled "Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq",

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) of 22 May 2003, in particular paragraph 7, relating to the restitution of the cultural property of Iraq, and Council resolution 2056 (2012) of 5 July 2012 on the situation in Mali,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), in particular paragraphs 15 to 17,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 2253 (2015), in particular paragraph 15, 2322 (2016) of 12 December 2016, in particular paragraph 12, and 2368 (2017) of 20 July 2017, in particular paragraph 7,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), which is focused on the targeted destruction of cultural heritage in the context of armed conflicts, as well as on the protection of cultural property from looting, smuggling and illicit trafficking, notably by terrorist groups,

1. *Recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in combating trafficking in cultural property, within its specific mandate and within the context of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2347 (2017), and encourages the Organization to continue to strengthen cooperation and synergies in this field with other international bodies, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Council of Museums and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property;

2. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation on the work they have accomplished, in particular through the promotion of bilateral negotiations, for the return or restitution of cultural property of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value, the preparation of inventories of movable cultural property and the implementation of the Object-ID standard related thereto, as well as for the reduction of illicit traffic in cultural property, exchanges of experiences and good practices and the dissemination of information and tools to the public, institutions, Member States and others, and encourages the continuation of such endeavours;

3. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the launch of its international awareness-raising and training campaigns for heritage managers, decision makers, museum experts, law enforcement and customs authorities and legal experts from Member States in the African, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European regions, from 2015 to 2018, aimed at preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property by providing the legal and operational knowledge and directly applicable skills to strengthen the protection of cultural property, facilitate return or restitution processes and strengthen international cooperation;

4. *Also commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the launch of the Unite for Heritage campaign to raise the awareness of young people regarding the value of cultural heritage and the necessity to protect it, and calls upon Member States to promote and support that campaign;

5. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations to work in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within their mandates and in cooperation with Member States, in order to continue to address the issue of return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin and to provide appropriate support accordingly;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,[1] the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects,[2] the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict[3] and the two Protocols thereto,[4] the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,[5] the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,[6] the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage[7] and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[8] and invites Member States that have not already done so to consider becoming parties to the aforementioned conventions and protocols that specifically address the return and restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

7. *Takes note* of the declarations and recommendations of the international forums on the return of cultural property, held in Seoul in July 2011 and October 2012, in Olympia, Greece, in October 2013, in Dunhuang, China, in September 2014 and in Nevşehir, Turkey, in October 2015;

8. *Acknowledges* the launch of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention Academic Project and the creation of the Informal Ratification Task Force as a platform for the exchange of views, information and assistance on issues such as the ratification and implementation of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;

9. *Takes note* of the role of the subsidiary committee of the meeting of States parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which, inter alia, promotes the purposes of the Convention, reviews national reports and prepares and submits to the meeting of States parties recommendations and guidelines that may contribute to the implementation of the Convention and identify problems arising from its implementation, while fostering exchanges of experiences and good practices;

10. *Welcomes* the decisions of the third meeting of the States parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, in particular the decision to adopt the operational guidelines for the implementation of the Convention;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property,[9] notes that the Convention has still not entered into force, and invites Member States that have not already done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention;

12. *Deplores* damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of crisis, conflict and post-conflict, in particular recent attacks on world cultural heritage sites, calls for an immediate end to such acts, and reminds States parties to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and to the two Protocols thereto of the provisions contained therein to safeguard and respect cultural property and to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against cultural property;

13. *Calls upon* all Member States in a position to do so to assist the affected States in combating trafficking in cultural property illegally excavated from archaeological sites and taken from museums, libraries, archives and manuscript collections, including through international cooperation in the return or restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property, as appropriate;

14. *Welcomes* the most recent efforts made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the protection of the cultural heritage of countries in conflict, in particular in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, including the safe return to those countries of cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance that have been illegally removed, and calls upon the international community to contribute to these efforts;

15. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, in November 2015, of the strategy for the reinforcement of the Organization's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict,[17] in particular as it relates to the countering of looting and illicit trafficking in cultural property during conflicts;

16. *Urges* Member States, including, upon request, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and INTERPOL, as appropriate, to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including by publicizing legislation, in particular in the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and by offering special training for police, customs and border services, and invites Member States to make trafficking in cultural property, including stealing from and looting of archaeological and other cultural sites, a serious crime, as defined in article 2 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[18] with a view to fully utilizing that Convention for the purpose of extensive international cooperation in fighting all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences;

17. *Encourages* all Member States to establish, where they do not yet exist, with the assistance of INTERPOL, upon request, specialized police units exclusively dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage to investigate cases of trafficking in cultural property, and a national stolen works of art database directly connected with the corresponding INTERPOL database;

18. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, which was opened for signature in Nicosia on 19 May 2017, and invites Member States to consider becoming parties to the Convention;

19. *Urges* all Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that all actors involved in the trade of cultural property, including but not limited to auction houses, art dealers, art collectors, museum professionals and managers of online marketplaces, are required to provide verifiable documentation of provenance as well as export certificates, as applicable, related to any cultural property imported, exported or offered for sale, including through the Internet;

20. *Invites* States parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to apply the operational guidelines for the implementation of the 1970

[17] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 48.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

Convention, which represent a useful tool to guide and assist States parties in implementing the Convention, including by learning from good practices of States parties geared to enhancing the effective implementation of the Convention, and to identify ways and means to further the achievement of the goals of the Convention through strengthened international cooperation;

21. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* to Member States to apply, to the maximum extent possible, where appropriate, with a view to strengthening international cooperation in this field, the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences,[19] which represent a useful framework to guide Member States in the development and strengthening of their criminal justice policies, strategies, legislation and cooperation mechanisms in the area of protection against trafficking in cultural property and other related offences;

22. *Invites* Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to draw up systematic inventories of their cultural property, including in digital form;

23. *Also invites* Member States to consider establishing and developing national, regional and international databases inventorying cultural property, which would also register trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted or illicitly excavated, and illicitly dealt-in, cultural property, and encourages Member States, in particular their law enforcement authorities, to enhance the exchange of information by sharing or interconnecting inventories of cultural property and databases on trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted or illicitly excavated, and illicitly dealt-in, cultural property and contributing to international inventories and databases;

24. *Recognizes* the improvement of the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which includes legislation from 190 Member States and translations into at least one of the official languages of the United Nations, and invites Member States to provide their legislation in electronic format for inclusion in the database if they have not yet done so, to provide regular updates to the database and to promote it;

25. *Applauds* the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote the use of identification and inventory systems, in particular the application of the Object-ID standard, and to encourage the linking of identification systems and existing databases, including the one developed by INTERPOL, to allow for the electronic transmission of information in order to reduce illicit trafficking in cultural property, and encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make further efforts in this regard in cooperation with Member States, where appropriate;

26. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk of the International Council of Museums and the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art as tools in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, and calls upon all Member States to use those tools, as appropriate;

27. *Notes* the adoption by the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, at its sixteenth session, of the rules of procedure on mediation and conciliation,[20] and invites Member States to consider the possibility of using such processes, as appropriate;

[19] Resolution 69/196, annex.

[20] A/67/219, annex I, recommendation No. 4.

28. *Encourages* Member States to consider using the model provisions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law on State ownership of undiscovered cultural objects and adopting effective legislation for the establishment and recognition of States' ownership of their heritage, as appropriate under national laws, with a view to facilitating return or restitution in cases of unlawful removal;

29. *Notes with appreciation* the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Customs Organization as a tool to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, and invites Member States to consider adopting the Model Export Certificate as their national export certificate, in accordance with domestic law and procedures;

30. *Takes note* of the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-ninth session, in November 2017, on strengthening the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;[21]

31. *Recognizes* the public awareness and increased mobilization and action in favour of heritage values achieved in 2002, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, and on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and calls upon the international community and the United Nations to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the basis of that work;

32. *Invites* those who deal with trade in cultural property and their associations, where they exist, to encourage the effective implementation of the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property, as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 16 November 1999,[22] the International Council of Museums Code of Ethics for Museums and other existing codes;

33. *Welcomes* the recently launched partnerships between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and cultural institutions, encompassing several lines of action aimed at combating illicit trafficking in cultural property, in order to implement awareness-raising activities for the general public, close collaboration and information exchange and cooperation on training and capacity-building initiatives, and encourages the development of further partnerships;

34. *Highlights* the importance of the continued efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to strengthen discussions with art market professionals in order to improve existing codes of ethics, professional practices and trade, raise awareness and provide education in areas such as provenance investigations, due diligence exercises, return or restitution procedures, the use of practical tools and appropriate knowledge of the international legal framework;

35. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Fund for the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, launched in November 2000, and invites Member States to increase further their voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to enhance its efficiency, and to make use of it, as appropriate;

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[21] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-ninth Session, Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 34.

[22] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirtieth Session, Paris, 26 October–17 November 1999*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 27.

36. *Takes note* of the Heritage Emergency Fund of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the international fund for the protection of endangered cultural heritage in armed conflict, as announced in Abu Dhabi on 3 December 2016, and other initiatives in this regard, and encourages Member States to provide financial contributions to support preventive and emergency operations, including, as appropriate, through documentation and consolidation of their cultural property in a network of "safe havens" in their own territories to protect their property, fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and undertake all appropriate efforts for the recovery of cultural heritage, in the spirit of the principles of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization conventions;

37. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation among States in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, as well as its illegal removal from the countries of origin, through, inter alia, the conclusion of bilateral agreements and mutual legal assistance, including the prosecution of persons involved in such activities and extradition, in accordance with the laws of cooperating States and under applicable international law;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its efforts to bring about the attainment of the objectives of the present resolution;

39. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

40. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin".

52nd plenary meeting
13 December 2018